

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Yes, because as the additional names went on V they improved upon the earlier ones thus scrapping them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Schneider.

DELEGATE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Chairman, I think this is a very important subject and I would suggest the lack of a quorum.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well. The lack of a quorum has been suggested. The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The pages will distribute Amendment V, V for Victory.

This will be Amendment No. 10.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 10 to Committee Recommendation GP-13 by Delegate Clagett and others: On page 28, section 30, Procedure to Adopt a County Instrument of Government, in line 2 after the word "Board" add the words "not to exceed nine"; and in line 6 after the period add the following:

"If additional charter board members are nominated by petitions signed by three percent of the registered voters of the county or by three thousands voters, whichever is less, which shall be delivered to the Board of County Commissioners within sixty days after the charter board shall have been appointed, then the Board of County Commissioners shall call a special election not less than thirty nor more than ninety days after receipt of the petitions unless a regular election falls within the designated period. The appointees of the Board of County Commissioners and those nominated by petitions shall be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order without party designation. The voters shall be entitled to cast votes for, and elect, a number of nominees equal to the number of charter board members originally selected by the Board of County Commissioners and those so elected shall constitute the charter board. The charter board shall be responsible for drafting the instrument of government."

In line 8 after the word "appointment" insert the words: "or in the event of an election within twelve months from the date of the election".

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is submitted by Delegate Clagett and seconded by the co-sponsors.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, as indicated by the Reading Clerk, this amendment is to section 30 and appears on page 28 of the schedule of legislation. By reference to line 1, you will note that, as recommended, the board of county commissioners of a county may appoint a charter board. We make amendment not to exceed nine in number at that point.

If they fail to appoint a charter board, then upon receipt of a petition, they will be required to do so. The amendment that is before you provides an alternative approach and that alternative approach is one whereby petitions signed by three percent or three thousand voters, whichever is less, delivered to the board of county commissioners within sixty days after the appointment by that board of county commissioners of its nominees, shall then require that there be a special election not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days after receipt of the petitions unless within that period of time there shall fall a regular election.

The nominees of the board of county commissioners and the nominees as the result of petitions will then go on a ballot at the special or general election in alphabetical order and without party designation. The voters at the special or general election will then select by their vote no more than the number of nominees originally made by the Board of County Commissioners, not to exceed nine, and the number receiving the highest number of votes will then constitute the charter board and be responsible for the drafting of an instrument of government.

That insert goes at the end of line 6 and you would then pick up at line 7 and go forward as recommended by the Committee. Where it is provided that the charter board so elected or appointed, as the case may be, shall within twelve months from the date of its appointment, and we add these words to make clear the insert with respect to the alternative approach or in the event of an election within twelve months from the date of that election, present an instrument of government for the county to the board of county commissioners.

And thereupon following the procedures by way of publication, referendum, and upon approval by a majority of the voters voting at that election, the charter comes into existence as the instrument of government for that county.

Now, I wish to explain to you that, as recommended, there is a period of two